



# Congressman Tim Bishop

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PRES. BUSH, REP. BISHOP HONOR FALLEN LI HERO**

*Nation's Highest Military Honor Awarded to Patchogue Native Who Sacrificed His Life in Afghanistan Combat Mission*

Washington, DC – On Monday, Congressman Tim Bishop participated in the White House ceremony where Long Island native Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in combat. Lt. Murphy, age 29, a U.S. Navy SEAL, was killed in action on June 28, 2005 while serving in Afghanistan.

“It was an honor to participate in this richly deserved tribute to Lt. Murphy,” said Congressman Bishop. “The Medal of Honor can never make up for his loss, but it will preserve for future generations the story of his inspirational life. His sacrifice reminds us of the dangers the men and women of our Armed Forces face in defending our nation as well as the hardships borne by our military families.”

After an invocation from Chaplain Bob Burt, President George W. Bush briefly described Lt. Murphy's youth in Patchogue and the gallantry he demonstrated under fire. Lt. Murphy's mother, Maureen Murphy, and his father Dan Murphy accepted the Congressional Medal of Honor on their son's behalf after a military aide read the award citation. An excerpt of the citation reads: “By his selfless leadership, courageous actions, and extraordinary devotion to duty, Lieutenant Murphy reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

Before the ceremony, Congressman Bishop met privately with members of the Murphy family. This evening, Congressman Bishop, the Secretary of the Navy and Lt. Murphy's father will speak at another ceremony honoring Lt. Murphy at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC.

Lt. Michael P. Murphy is the first recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in combat in Afghanistan in support of OPERATION Enduring Freedom and the first Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to a Sailor since the Vietnam War. The award was approved by the President on September 7, 2007. There have been two other Congressional Medal of Honor recipients since the attacks of September 11, 2001 – both for actions in support of OPERATION Iraqi Freedom.

Lt. Murphy was killed during a reconnaissance mission, in support of OPERATION Red Wing, Kunar Province, Afghanistan in search of Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents. Lt. Murphy's four-man Navy SEAL team was dropped off in a heavily forested area along steep terrain in the country's eastern mountain border with Pakistan. During the mission, the group's position was

compromised, and shortly afterwards came under attack from a large insurgent force.

His Medal of Honor citation states that Lt. Murphy, in an attempt to establish radio contact for assistance, abandoned his secure position and exposed himself to the enemy's gunfire. Although immediately wounded while making the call, he returned to his position and continued fighting where he saved the life of one of his fellow SEALs. Of the four-man SEAL group, Murphy and two others were killed.

At Patchogue-Medford High School on Long Island, Michael Murphy was a National Honor Society student and a varsity football athlete. He worked as a lifeguard during his summer vacations. He attended Penn State University, majoring in political science and excelling academically.

Michael decided shortly after graduating from college that he would fulfill his passion to become a Navy SEAL. He served with distinction and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart in recognition of his courage and sacrifice.

He is survived by his mother Maureen Murphy, his father Dan Murphy, his brother John Murphy, and his fiancée Heather Duggan.

In 2006, Congressman Bishop sought to honor Lt. Murphy by having the U.S. Post Office in Patchogue renamed as the "Lt. Michael P. Murphy Post Office Building." The legislation was originally introduced in the House of Representatives by Bishop, where it was passed unanimously. It was then introduced by Senator Hillary Clinton in the Senate, where it passed, and was later signed into law by the President on August 2, 2006.

Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863, and it is the highest honor bestowed upon American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. It is awarded by the President, in the name of Congress, to a person who distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

**Ceremony Photos Available for Printing:** [http://www.navy.mil/view\\_photos\\_top.asp](http://www.navy.mil/view_photos_top.asp)

For more information, go to <http://www.navy.mil/moh/mpmurphy/>.

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